Codename “Vienna 2554”: The Serious, The Funny and The Sublime in Medieval France.

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The following is an outline of my book which I hope to complete soon. However, I offer to the world this outline in the event that I cannot complete my book.

About Me

I am a single, white male Englishman. I am a History Graduate of the University of Derby, England. I graduated BA Hons History 2:1 in 2008, aged 38. Also, I am a Born-Again Christian. I was Born Again in 1985, age 15, but I began following Jesus 5 years beforehand. This article forms the basis of my book from a Christian perspective.

_'Codex Vindobonensis 2554' is probably one of the most important books you have never heard about – until now. 'Vindobonensis' refers to a large collection of manuscripts held by the Austrian National Library, and 'Codex' refers to a type of document which pre-dates our modern bound books in that a codex was a manuscript. It is an illuminated manuscript bound in pages rather than a scroll. It has been dated for around 1215 A.D. and it was believed to have been commissioned by Blanche de Castile, mother of King Louis IX of France, who used it as a Daily Devotional.

Do you remember a time in your life when everything seemed so simple and you had time to have fun? Yet, today seems so pressured all of the time. Well, I want to share with you my experience of this long-forgotten 13th Century French illuminated Catholic Bible, which I believe was designed to show us how to live an easier life, pleasing to God. It is known also as "Codex 2554". The painting above is from the front of this Bible with its own name "Vienna 2554". It warrants a whole book in itself.

Others are using Codex 2554. However, I believe my work is groundbreaking in that I can apply a unique concept to Biblical Cosmology of "Centre-Periphery" relationships, as well as applying it on a universal basis. I believe no one is currently taking this approach.

I hope to be able to explain the hidden meaning of this "Frontispiece", along with the hidden meanings of the first book, Genesis, in conjunction with quotes from the North American Standard Bible (NASB), 1971 edition. Further books covering Exodus to IV Kings will be forthcoming.

I am constantly amazed at the depth and breadth of Codex 2554, as it opens the door again to the written Word of God. I have gleaned about half of my understanding of Codex 2554 so far simply by viewing it, meditating upon it and consulting the written Bible. The other fifty per cent of my time has been spent reflecting on my History degree relevance, logical reasoning and life experience.

As I spend more time in Genesis, I begin to discover things that had been hidden from my eyes until recently.

The Frontispiece to Codex 2554, which has a more descriptive title of "God the Geometer", is deliberately placed at the front of Codex 2554 in order to demonstrate the power, the majesty and the beautiful nature of God.

I invite you to simply stare into the painting above and let its beauty sink into your soul. Let the Holy Spirit of God guide your thoughts and feelings. Perhaps you might want to spend some time absorbing it. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Then let the questions arise.

Centre-Periphery Relationships

I see a message of Hope from a God who we read about in the Bible as a God of Hope. In the Frontispiece, we see God the Son, Jesus Christ, standing outside of the Universe, drawing our attention to the Creation, and measuring the distance from the Centre of the Earth to the Periphery of the Universe. His desire is that we will one day consider this relationship between the Centre of the Universe and its Periphery. I believe he wanted us in the 13th Century to consider exploration of the whole universe and to travel to the outer limits, to explore God's Creation "from coast to coast".

While it is a demonstration of poise, Time is running out as we rapidly approach the Second Coming of God the Messiah, Jesus Christ. I might never get another opportunity to share with you all that God has shared with me and all that I have thus far discovered, so I will "lay all my cards on the table", so to speak. I firmly believe that Codex 2554 has a universal application across ALL fields in the Arts, Humanities, Science and Technology. God has a universal message for ALL of his Creation. I might never finish this book in time, so I wish to give you the structure of my book in the hope that you will be inspired to complete the book for me. Of course, I'll let you take the credit for your work – Laughs Out Loud – and any profit! Below is some of the Contents Page Items for you:

1. Modern Mind versus Medieval Mind.

2. Frontispiece to Codex 2554; multi-layer interpretation – surface, deeper, hidden. Secret Messages. Centre-Periphery Relationships. Malvern Priory. Two Parts framework.

3. Ancien Regime – Capetian Dynasty, Old French, Espionage – Court and Industrial. Visual Codemakers and Codebreakers – symbols and anecdotes.

4. Scientific application – Newton's Third Law of Motion. Space Rocketry. Centrifugal force.

5. Two Parts Framework. Speeding Up and Slowing Down

6. Christian Interpretation

7. Social Sciences – Justice, Law and Grace, Mercy, Compassion, Social Psychology, Poverty Eradication, Purpose and Meaning.

8. Arts – perception, meditation, subtle change, hidden messages, beauty, joy, expression, bringing a painting to life.

9. History – Continuity and Change, Medieval costumes and occupations. Cultural identity. Industrial espionage.

10. Pre-Machiavelli: Court diplomacy and the Church.

11. Capetian Dynasty .

12. Metaphysics – are we sleepwalking into the Abyss or are we going there with our eyes wide open? Christians who dodge the bullet. Exploring Film and TV – The Matrix. Coincidence, Conspiracy and Convergence.

13. Strange Things connected with Codex 2554.

14. Comedy – God shows us how he has fun so that we might learn. Making all the right noises

15. Christ Crucified.

16. Architecture – Gothic style, circles and triangles, Stained Glass, hidden messages.

17. Glossary and Etymology .

I believe that Codex 2554 is the second part of the Bible.

If you have not done so already, I urge you to pick up a copy of Gerald B. Guest's book, 'Bible Moralisee', in which you will find a complete and precise facsimile of the Codex Vindobonensis 2554. The publishers have invested a substantial amount of time and effort into using special inks and paper that replicate the original manuscript as faithfully as possible. I have a copy of Guest's book myself and whilst the Frontispiece is in the Public Domain and free to use, I do not know about the rest of the illuminated manuscript; so I will be making reference only to the 1032 pictures or medallions in Guest's book. There is more I want to say about Guest's book, as a Book Review, but for now I want to focus on the Frontispiece and the Book of Genesis.

I will describe the pictures and then comment with initial thoughts and feelings.

When I first saw the Frontispiece in an article on the Wikipedia website under the title 'Biblical Cosmology', instantly I knew what I was looking at. I must confess that I was not even looking for a religious topic, rather for inspiration to possibly kickstart a return to university to study for a Master's degree, in order to improve my long-term employment prospects. My search was for further scholarly work on the 'Centre-Periphery Relationship' model, which I had very successfully explored and developed at the University of Derby, during my 'BA (Hons) History' undergraduate course.

Instantly, I recognised the person in the painting to be God the Son, due to the Cruciform Halo around his head. His long, flowing locks and beard also gave it away. The title at the top of the folio, translated by Gerald B. Guest from Old French into English for the first time in 800 years, reads, 'Here God creates heaven and earth, the sun and the moon, and all the elements.' (Gen 1:1). This was, indeed, a glorious moment, and I wish to focus on a part of the message I believe God has been trying to send to us for the past 6000 years, but which we have ignored.

Part of his message is that we will never be on our own in the Universe. We will never be left to struggle with Life's challenges by ourselves. God is with us wherever we may go – that is the significance of God the Son

painted standing outside of the Cosmos. We will always have Jesus, who was there at the Beginning of Creation and he will be there at the End of Creation – he is the Alpha and the Omega.

Another key feature is that God is *actively* involved in the Creation of the Universe.